

Public Art Board Meeting September 22, 2011



Members Present:

Robert Todd, Chair
Julie Calhoun-Roepnack, Vice-Chair
Jaan Ferree
Gwynne Rukenbrod
Sharon Trammel
Honor Moor
Nancy Sokolove
Jennifer Gordon
Mark Coven

Staff Present:

Diane Ruggiero, Cultural Arts Superintendent
Christy Bass, Business Services Supervisor
Jenny Bowen

Guests Present:

Kitty Love

Robert called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

Robert stated that it might be a good idea to include timeframes on some of the agenda items to help keep the meetings on target.

Gwynne stated that she attended the last meeting late and would like to be included in the August minutes as a member present.

Jaan corrected the August minutes to reflect the Urban Trail committee update was to piece number 21 and not 23 as stated in section 7.

1. Approval of August Minutes:

Jennifer motioned to approve the corrected August minutes, Sharon 2nd and all approved. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Committes/Committee Structure:

Diane passed out a hand out and provided a brief explanation of the criteria required when forming a sub-committee. Jaan asked if there are a maximum number of people that can be on a sub-committee. Diane responded no, however a maximum could be determined by the chair, if needed. Robert asked who qualified to be on a sub-committee. Diane stated that if there is a formation of a sub-committee that one member of the board is required to be the chair of the sub committee and all other members are allowed to be a combination of people. She suggested that in the future it would be helpful and important to keep a public record with the purpose of the sub-committee as

well as the rules and responsibilities. Diane added that staff is not required to provide support or attend all sub-committee meetings, however if requested, staff will work with members if assistance is needed.

Mark asked if there is a set meeting day and time. Diane responded that these types of items are to be determined as a group along with how often the board expects items such as reports (quarterly, monthly, etc). Robert asked if a new sub-committee needed to be open to the public if the meetings are more of a discussion instead of having items to vote on. Diane said that this would be a conversation to have now and asked the board to determine if what they need is a true sub-committee or an ad-hoc committee. She added that at a minimum, minutes should be taken so they can be included along with the Public Art Board meetings and that this will help if the topic and task warrants public comment.

Sharon said that in looking back at past minutes, there are some topics that could be handled through an ad-hoc committee rather than a sub-committee. Robert stated that they have been creating sub-committees to be an active arm of the board and then come back to the Public Art Board and report back and that an ad-hoc committee does not seem as active. Diane stated that the acquisitions committee, for example, only comes together when a member of the public brings a public art project forward and not when one is generated from internal staff. Robert felt that a sub-committee structure is what the board needs with some ad-hoc committee work that could also be done.

Julie stated that it makes sense for each sub-committee to make their own rules. Mark agreed however he commented that is not how the rules are set. Diane added that the guidelines are set up to make sure a sub-committee is in alignment with how the board would like them to be set up since they are being tasked with doing work on the board's behalf. She stated that this board needs to determine the structure needed for the sub-committee. Gwynne stated that they could get input from a sub-committee and then as a board decide if that will work or not. Mark commented that he knows of several people who have expressed an interest in being part of an educational piece and he would like to see some resolution today.

Gwynne asked about #2 and if those things have to be decided before a sub-committee is formed. Diane responded that you can reach out to people to find out who is interested, come back to the board with those people's names and form a sub-committee, however at the same time you need to form the roles and responsibilities along with when the committee will meet so that at that first meeting the structure is outlined.

Mark asked what action is required today. Diane responded that today is to determine what sub-committees are needed, who will chair them and come to a mini consensus of what these sub-committees should do. Diane reminded the board of their authority to dissolve a committee if necessary.

Jaan stated that partnering and advocacy should have multiple members of the board as part of this. Robert added that just because you are not on a sub-committee does not mean you cannot attend, adding that the topic of partnering should be a sub-committee.

Sharon responded that she would rather see fewer committees with more participation and functional value. Nancy agreed that less is more, adding that these are two separate issues by clarifying that advocacy needs a project and a group should be tasked with finding partners for public art and cultural affair items.

Robert stated that visioning is something to think about with out having a pressing timeframe or event that needs to be responded to. He added that during the retreat we are learning about the various updates to the department and city, whereas the visioning committee might only meet once a year before the annual retreat. Jaan stated that it would be nice to have a committee gather research to present at the retreat so that the entire board can then be part of the vision. Mark recommended that visioning could also be part of the agenda every several months to discuss. Diane added that Public Art Network also has a blog and that as a board member you also have a subscription to the Public Art Review publication to see what else is out there along with providing additional board development if you need it.

Jaan recommended a maintenance sub-committee. Diane reminded the board that sub-committees belong to you to determine what to do with. She suggested reviewing the current PRCA maintenance plan as a way to help build roles and responsibilities accordingly. Gwynne suggested that it is realistic to come up with the sub-committees but determining the roles and responsibilities is too much to decide today, and that the chair of the sub-committees could work with the group and then come back to the board with the information.

Jennifer moved to add partnering, maintenance and advocacy as sub committees. Honor 2nd and all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Robert asked if anyone was interested in chairing any of these sub-committees. Honor stated her interest in advocacy. Jaan said that she would be interested in helping with the maintenance sub-committee and could probably get the Urban Trail sub-committee interested as well. Sharon agreed to chair the maintenance sub-committee.

Robert reminded the board that at the council meeting on Tuesday they will be discussing the re-titling of the Public Art Board and he will be speaking to council and providing an update of what they are working on.

3. Committee Updates:

Urban Trail

Jaan reported that the Urban Trail sub-committee meetings will now be the week before the Public Art Board. Jaan asked Diane what it means to have the piglet sculpture off exhibit. Diane responded that the piglet came off of his mounts and has been removed adding that there is a contract in process with Bob Gursky to do the repairs. She added that the turkey sculptures are also loose and will be repaired as well. Diane stated that the anchors currently used on the sculptures were not designed for heavy use by the public

and they are limited to the size of the anchors that can be used to prevent loosening. She added that they have realized that replacing the anchors will need to become an annual maintenance and repair item.

Jaan said that there are some things about the audio tour and not having a children's version. October is the month that kids historically tour the urban trail. Diane said they decided not to use the children's audio tour because the person who was producing the audio tour has moved out of Asheville and that teachers suggested that the children's audio tour did not add any additional value and they preferred the regular tour.

Education committee:

Mark stated that he plans on meeting with Nancy to find those people who have expressed an interest in working with education and come up with the goals for the committee. These should be ready to vote on at the October meeting.

4. Cultural arts update:

Diane shared a handout of the various projects that the Cultural Arts Department also works on. She did not include the recent meeting with Transit to discuss public art at the transit center.

5. New Business:

Guest, Kitty Love, spoke to the board stating that she received a call from Harry Brown in Parking Services about a retaining wall at the Rankin Street garage. She added that there is a city RFP process that she does not understand how to participate in. Diane responded that there is a city process that explains how the city acquires and pays for public art and to reference the website. The RFP (request for proposal) is not ready to be developed because the Transit Department has yet to determine what it is that they are looking for. The second project will be the parking lot murals along the Rankin Street garage. When the RFP is sent out there is a press release, a listing of criteria for submitting your ideas and a call that will discuss the project during a Public Art Board meeting so it is a public forum.

Nancy asked if there is a RFI (request for information) that is sent out. Diane responded that there is not a RFI, but based on the type of call that is being issued and the budget, there will not be a need for a national call, and instead it will be a regional call. She added that there is a lot of preparation that goes into preparing the RFP such as site drawings, criteria, determining budget.

Kitty asked about the Grassroots Grant and asked if there is a community panel tasked with reviewing the grants. Diane stated that staff will be reviewing the grants with one person from the Public Art Board included on the review panel of five. Diane added that the panel make up should be of three arts professionals and two non arts professionals.

Robert adjourned the meeting at 5:32 pm